

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-4 (Canceled).

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): A lining for columns of automobiles, comprising:
a base area with fixing and holding elements and at least one opening area covering an airbag, wherein the at least one opening area comprises a thermoplastic material with a Shore A hardness greater than 100 and has a hinge area contacting the base area and consisting essentially of a thermoplastic material with a Shore A hardness of less than 95.


Claim 6 (Previously Presented): The lining as claimed in claim 5, wherein the opening area is further bounded by intended fracture lines or wall thickness reductions adjoining the hinge area.

Claim 7 (Previously Presented): The lining as claimed in claim 5, wherein the hinge area consists essentially of a thermoplastic material with a Shore A hardness between 30 and 95.

Claim 8 (Previously Presented): The lining as claimed in claim 7, wherein the hinge area consists essentially of a thermoplastic material with a Shore A hardness between 60 and 80.

Claim 9 (Previously Presented): The lining as claimed in claim 5, wherein the base area and the opening area together with the hinge area are covered by a unified decorative layer.

Claim 10 (Previously Presented) A lining for columns of automobiles, comprising:
a base area and at least one opening area covering an airbag, wherein the at least one opening area is formed of a unitary layer and comprises a first material having a first hardness, except for a hinge area comprising a second material having a second hardness being different than said first hardness.

 Claim 11 (Previously Presented): The lining as claimed in claim 10 wherein the base area has at least one fixing element.

Claim 12 (Previously Presented): The lining as claimed in claim 10, wherein the second material is thermoplastic.

Claim 13 (Previously Presented): The lining as claimed in claim 10, wherein the opening area is further bounded by intended fracture lines or wall thickness reductions adjoining the hinge area.

Claim 14 (Previously Presented): The lining as claimed in claim 10 wherein the second hardness is less than the first hardness

Claim 15 (Previously Presented): The lining as claimed in claim 14, wherein the second material further has a Shore A hardness between 30 and 95

Claim 16 (Previously Presented): The lining as claimed in claim 14, wherein the second material further has a Shore A hardness between 60 and 80.

Claim 17 (Previously Presented): The lining as claimed in claim 10, wherein the base area and the opening area together with the hinge area are covered by a unified decorative layer.